

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 047635  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY:AF/E:KPGARLAND

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUQMBI/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE 9057

USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE

USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 047635

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT ADDIS ABABA 0807 ACTION SECSTATE FEB 17.

QUOTE: S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 0807

NODIS

PASS TO WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI

STATE FOR VANCE

FROM AARON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, ET, SO, US

SUBJ: MEETING WITH MENGISTU

1. I HAD TWO-AND-ONE-HALF HOUR MEETING WITH MENGISTU AFTERNOON 17 FEBRUARY WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FELLEKE, PMAC FOREIGN RELATIONS CHIEF BERHANU BAYEHN FOREIGN MINISTRY PERMSEC DAWIT AND AMERICAN DESK CHIEF BERHANE PRESENT ON ETHIOPIAN SIDE. NONE OF DIRG MEMBERS CURRENTLY CONSIDERED AS HARDLINERS PRESENT. MOOD OF MEETING WAS TEMPERATE AND SERIOUS WITH RECOGNITION ON ETHIOPIAN SIDE OF ITS HIGH-LEVEL NATURE AND EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S INITIATIVE. MUCH OF THE GROUND COVERED  
SECRET

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WAS AS ANTICIPATED ON BOTH SIDES. ETHIOPIAN CRITICISMS OF U.S. PAST POSITION TOWARD REVOLUTION WERE EXTENSIVE BUT FAMILIAR AND NOT PARTICULARLY VINDICTIVE IN TONE. MY RESPONSES WERE DIRECT AS PLANNED. THE CONCLUDING PORTION OF THE MEETING WAS CLEARLY UPBEAT AND POSITIVE.

2. MAIN HIGHLIGHTS: MENGISTU ASKED THAT I PERSONALLY CONVEY TO PRESIDENT HIS ASSURANCES THAT ETHIOPIA HAS NO INTENTION OF CROSSING SOMALIA'S BORDERS, NOR HAS ETHIOPIA ANY INTENTION OF INTERFERING IN OTHER COUNTRIES' AFFAIRS, THAT CUBAN AND SOVIET FORCES HAD COME ONLY TO HELP ETHIOPIA AND ETHIOPIA WOULD NOT PERMIT THEM TO USE ETHIOPIA AS A BASE FOR INTERVENTION IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

3. IN RESPONSE TO MY STRONG CHARACTERIZATION OF DESTABILIZING EFFECT OF CUBAN AND SOVIET COMBAT FORCES REMAINING IN REGION AND MY STRESS ON FACT THAT THIS CAUSED DEEP CONCERN TO US AND OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE AREA, HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS CONCERN AND WISHED TO REASSURE US THAT ETHIOPIA DID NOT REGARD THESE FORCES AS A PERMANENT FEATURE OF THE AREA, BUT AS TEMPORARY THOUGH NECESSARY FORCES TO ENABLE ETHIOPIA TO OVERCOME THE EFFECTS OF SOMALI AGGRESSION.

MENGISTU'S PURPOSE WAS CLEARLY NOT TO FURTHER STRAIN RELATIONS BUT TO KEEP OPEN CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION AND TO BALANCE SOVIETS TO SOME EXTENT. KEY AT THIS POINT IS CLEARLY TO GET SOMALIS OUT OF OGADEN. OTHERWISE MENGISTU DETERMINED TO PUSH THEM OUT DESPITE RISKS OF WIDER CONFLICT. HE APPRECIATED CLARIFICATION THAT OUR APPROACH IS CEASEFIRE LINKED WITH WITHDRAWAL AND NEGOTIATION AIMED NOT AT LEAVING SOAMLI FORCES IN PLACE BUT AT STABILIZING SITUATION AFTER WITHDRAWAL. FROM HIS REACTIONS, THERE MAY BE SOME POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATION ALONG THESE LINES.

4. PRIOR TO DEPARTURE TOMORROW, I WILL MEET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AND VISIT FORMER AID PROJECT (JFK LIBRARY) AS WELL AS RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION. MATHERON  
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UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, INTERVENTION, MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS, CAT-B, NEGOTIATIONS  
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**Draft Date:** 24 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**TAGS:** PEPR, PBOR, ET, SO, US, CU, UR, (MENGISTU HAILE MARIAM)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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